

Utility 2:
Increasing Safety for
First Responders and Motorists



Paul Arends, P.E.
West Michigan Transportation Operations Center Engineer

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*“Providing the highest quality
integrated transportation services
for economic benefit
and improved quality of life.”*



“Providing the highest quality **integrated** transportation services for economic benefit and improved quality of life.”

US-131 'S' Curve: Challenging Operational Location

- Highest volume corridor in Region
- Limited sight distance
- Minimal shoulders
- Tight access spacing
- Left hand entrance/exits
- Elevated structure (ice)



= Incident Management Opportunity

First Responder Problem

Three fire apparatus struck <1 year

- \$150,000+ damage
- Weeks of down time



Evolution of Partnering Opportunity

- Issue identified
- Brainstorming session
 - MDOT
 - GRFD
 - KCRC
 - MSP
 - City of GR
- “Blocking Vehicle” Concept



Kent County Road Commission



UTILITY 2



Getting to know “Utility 2”

- Salvaged City of GR dump truck
 - Painted Red
 - Lights/sirens
 - Conspicuity Tape
- Trailer Attenuator
 - No fabrication needed to attach
 - No down time if struck
- Arrow Board



Utility 2 - Made Possible By:

- City of GR & GRFD
 - Donated vehicle (salvage)
 - Purchased arrow board
- MMRMA Grant
 - Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority
 - Paint, lights, sirens, conspicuity tape...
- KCRC
 - Installed arrow board
- MDOT
 - Rental rate reimbursement for use of equipment



Benefits

- ⦿ Provides Protection
 - First Responders
 - Victims
 - Motorists
- ⦿ Advance Notification
 - Lights/Sirens
 - Arrow Board
- ⦿ Costs less than Fire Truck
- ⦿ No down time if attenuator struck



Not Collecting Dust

- In service date August 2, 2011
 - 14 deployments in the first week
 - ~700 deployments to date



Utility 2 is deployed an average of 1.2 times per day!

Utility 2: In the Limelight

- Local



- National



Utility 2: In the Limelight

- Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) Outstanding Contributions to Traffic Safety



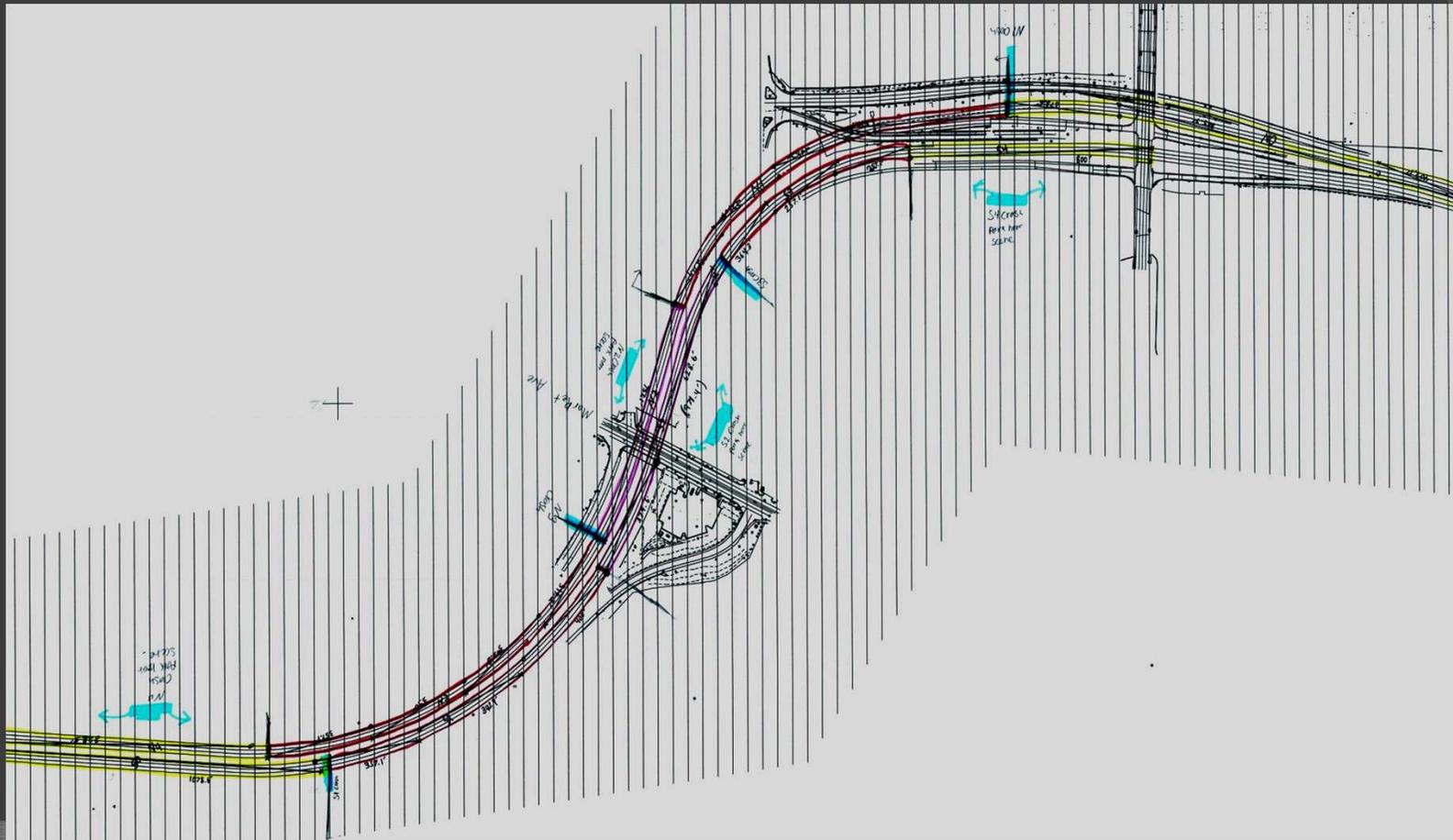
Challenges

- Parking
 - Utility 2
 - Other responders
- Communications
 - WMTOC
 - Dispatch
- Vehicle Use
 - Roll ahead distance, new procedure



Optimizing Safety

- Calculating sight distance for optimal parking



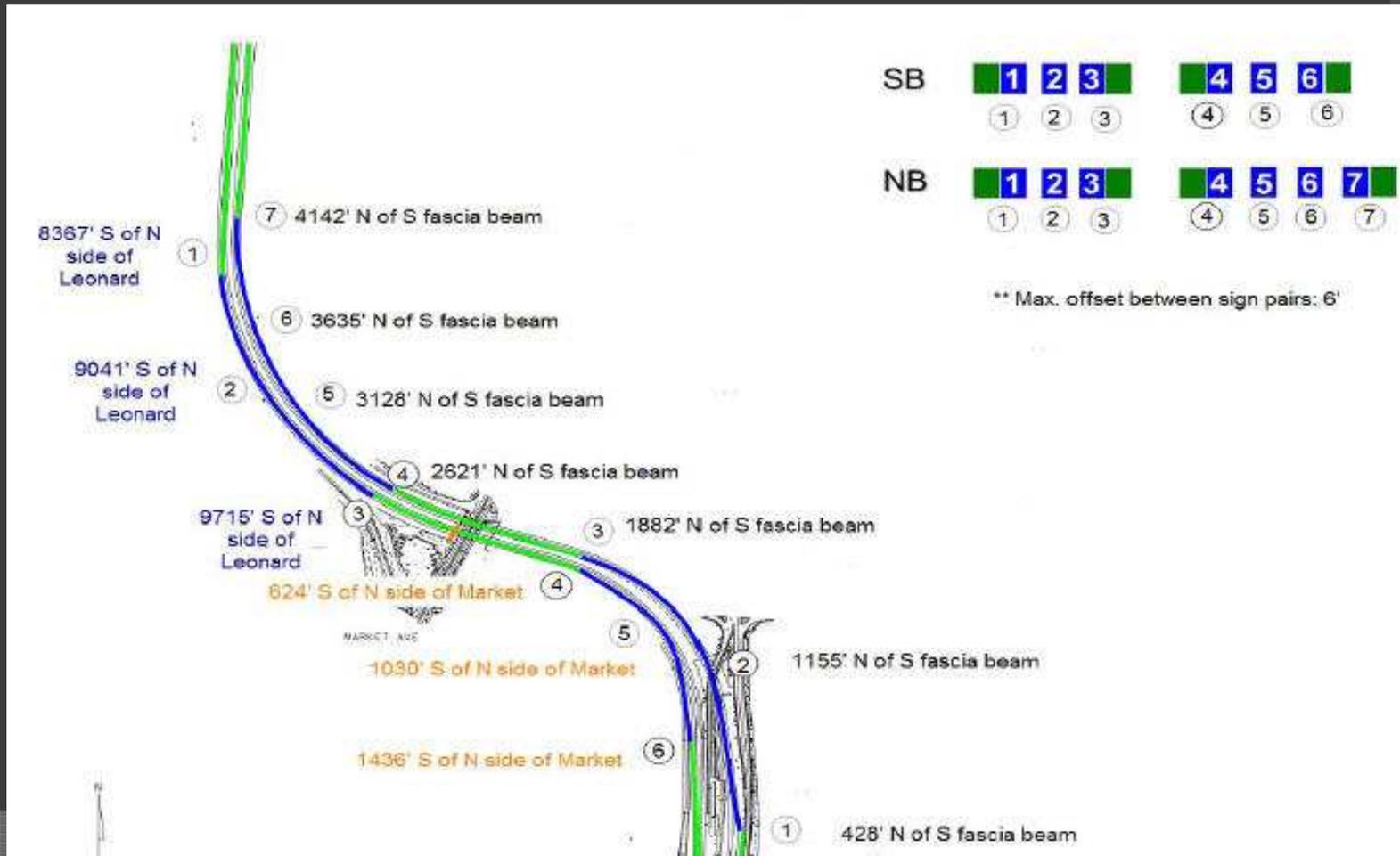
Optimizing Safety

- Sight distance zones



Optimizing Safety

- Markers on Concrete Barrier: Parking Assistance



On the Horizon

- ⦿ Increased Communication
 - Real-Time DMS updates
 - Email notifications
 - SOP
- ⦿ Multi-Agency Training



Utility 2: Increasing Safety for First Responders and Motorists

Thank You!



Questions?



Paul Arends, P.E.

West Michigan Transportation Operations Center Engineer

arendsp@michigan.gov